

Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

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FM AEMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7092
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 14772

FOR S/P LAKE FROM FODAG COUNSELOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, ECIN, EGAR, FAO, UN
SUBJECT: NORTH-SOUTH STRATEGIES: ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A) STATE 191928; B) MANILA 9792

1. THIS IS A VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE TO REF A FROM THE PERSPECTIVE
OF UN ACTIVITIES IN ROME IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZA-
TIONS, SEPARATE FROM THE RESPONSE OF THE EMBASSY ON THE
ITALIAN PERSPECTIVE, WHICH SEEMED TOUS DESIRABLE BECAUSE
OF THE STRESS PLACED ON FOOD NEEDS IN THIS S/P PLANNING
ACTIVITY. GENERALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT SO
MUCH ONE OF FORMULATING NEW POLICIES AND NEW MEANS OF
INVOLVING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS IT IS ONE OF
DEVELOPING AND FOCUSING EXISTING ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING
ARE OUR RESPONSES TO THE THREE LINES OF THINKING SET FORTH
IN PARAS 3, 4 AND 5 OF REF A.

A. INVOLVING LDC'S CONSTRUCTIVELY (PARA 3 REF A)

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WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SECTOR, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, WE ARE RELATIVELY
WELL-ADVANCED AS TO UNIVERSALITY AND CONSTRUCTIVE
CHARACTER OF LDC PARTICIPATION. FAO, AS THE LONG-
STANDING UN SPECIALIZED AGENCY IN THE FOOD-AGRICULTURE
SECTION, GIVES A UNIVERSAL CHARACTER TO PARTICIPATION

(WITH SOVIET ABSENCE THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT GAP). NEWLY ESTABLISHED STATES CONTINUE TO ENTER FAO IMMEDIATELY UPON RECOGNITION OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE. AROUND FAO HAS DEVELOPED A CORPS OF 80-ODD PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, MOST OF WHOM, WHETHER LDC OR DC, HAVE SUBSTANTIAL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. IN ADDITION TO THE MORE THAN EIGHTY COUNTRIES WITH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, MANY OTHERS AMONG THE 136 MEMBERS PARTICIPATE EQUALLY EFFECTIVELY THROUGH DELEGATIONS TO IMPORTANT CONFERENCES. THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE OTHER THREE UN ORGANIZATIONS IN ROME -- THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT -- HAVE FEWER MEMBERS, LIKE THE FAO COUNCIL, BUT GENERALLY CAN BE VIEWED AS A COMPOSITE WHOLE SO FAR AS THE ASPIRATIONS AND POLICIES OF THE LDC'S ARE CONCERNED. THE POLICY-MAKING BODY, GENERALLY SPEAKING, IS THE WBLD FOOD COUNCIL, WHICH AFTER MUCH PROCEDURAL AND POLITICAL WRANGLING IN 1975-1976, HAS JUST HELD RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL PREPARATORY AND MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN 1977. ITS MANILA COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 1977 (REF B) IS A GOOD ALTHOUGH LENGTHY COMPROMISE-CONSENSUS OF LDC-DC VIEWS IN THE FOOD-AGRICULTURE SECTOR, AND CAN SERVE AS A GOOD POINT OF BEGINNING IN DEVELOPING AND FOCUSING FUTURE EFFORTS.

B. STRATEGY OF MEETING HUMAN NEEDS (PARA 4 REF A)
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FOLLOWING ON THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WITH STRONG BI-PARTISAN DOMESTIC SUPPORT, IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 1974 AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATING ACTIVITIES, OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY OF MEETING HUMAN NEEDS HAS ALREADY BEEN PROJECTED EFFECTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD ORGANIZATIONS. OUR DELEGATION TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE WFC IN MAY 1977 URGED THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING BE TIED TOGETHER UNDER THE UNIFYING THEME OF ERADICATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. THIS CARRIED IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, AND THE MANILA COMMUNIQUE, AFTER ITS PREAMBLE, TOOK THE FORM OF AN QTE INTEGRATED PROGRAM OF ACTION TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION UNQTE (ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT SUCCEED IN EXCLUDING TRADE ISSUES, AND THE 22 MEASURE PROGRAM IS TOO LENGTHY AND UNFOCUSED). THE WFC ACCEPTANCE OF THIS THEME GIVES AN OVER-ALL PARALLEL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO OUR OWN BILATERAL ACTIVITIES. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT IMPEDIMENT TO COORDINATION OF OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS WITH THOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SOME INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS AND SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

CONTINUE TO FAVOR INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS AS OPPOSED TO BILATERAL, BUT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES HAVE COME TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FOOD SECTOR REQUIRE THE COORDINATED EFFORTS AND RESOURCES OF MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IS AN IMPORTANT AND USEFUL COMPONENT OF THE TOTAL. IN MANY RESPECTS THE TWO CHANNELS OF ASSISTANCE ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. THE FAO-SPONSORED WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1979 WILL BE AN IMPORTANT TEST CASE. THERE HAS BEEN A DANGER IN TREATING SUCH ISSUES IN REGULAR AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCES, BECAUSE THE SOCIALIST BLOC COUNTRIES AND THE STATE-ECONOMY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TEND TO MAKE THE DISCUSSIONS HIGHLY IDEOLOGICAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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CAL. IN THE EXPERT MEETINGS BEING HELD BY FAO IN PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, THE EXPERTS SEEM TO BE NON-IDEOLOGICAL AND WELL-SELECTED, INCLUDING A WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN EXPERT.

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7093

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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C INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF
EASTERN EUROPE (PARA 5 REF A).

THE PROSPECTS FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FOOD SECTOR ARE PARTICULARLY DIM, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE THE USSR IS NOT A MEMBER OF FAO WHICH IS THE BASIC AND UNIVERSAL FOOD ORGANIZATION. SOME OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS POLAND AND HUNGARY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANIMAL PRODUCTION JOINT VENTURES. THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE NO IDEOLOGICAL BLOCKAGE TO THIS, AS EVIDENCED IN FAO'S SENDING A HIGH POLISH TECHNICIAN RECENTLY TO VISIT VARIOUS U.S. POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS, UNDER THE FAO EXCHANGE PROGRAM. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT NONE OF THEM HAVE MUCH TO OFFER IN NUTRITION PLANNING, AS COMPARED WITH OUR OWN SPECIALISTS AND THOSE OF SCANDINAVIA AND THE NETHERLANDS. IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE EASTERN EUROPEANS TEND TO BECOME IDEOLOGICAL. A FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING EASTERN EUROPEAN INVOLVEMENT MIGHT BE TO RE-OPEN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE USSR TO JOIN FAO. SOVIET REASONS FOR NOT HAVING DONE SO ARE NOT CLEAR, THE MOST LIKELY

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BEING THAT THE USSR IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ABOUT ITS AGRICULTURE, AND ITS SET-BACKS IN THAT FIELD. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WAS LARGELY OUR PRESSURES ON THEM THAT LED THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, SOME SAY AT THE COST OF PERHAPS THE MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF GETTING THEM TO JOIN FAO. IN ANY EVENT, THEIR ROLE IN THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL HAS BEEN MINIMAL AND NOMINAL. NON-PARTICIPATION OF THE USSR IN INTERNATIONAL FOOD UNDERTAKING LEAVES A BIG GAP IN TRULY WORLD-WIDE COLLABORATION AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

2. IMPORTANT GOVERNING BODY CONFERENCES DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WOULD AFFORD GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. POLICIES IN THE FOOD-AGRICULTURE FIELD -- THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID (GOVERNING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM) IN OCTOBER, THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER, AND THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN DECEMBER. GARDNER

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